

GLOSSARY

ACCELERATED EROSION. Erosion processes increased by the activities of man. See "Erosion."

ACRE-FOOT. A unit for measuring volume, equal to the quantity of water or other material required to cover one acre to a depth of one foot or a volume of 43,560 cubic feet.

ACTIVITY PLAN. A plan which establishes objectives and prescribes management for a specific site. It may include one or more activities or resources. (Allotment Management Plan, Habitat Management Plan, Coordinated Resource Management Plan, etc.).

ACTUAL USE. (1) The actual amount of grazing by livestock and/or game animals; (2) The index of actual use submitted by livestock operators (No.s, class of stock, season) expressed in AUMs.

ADJUSTMENTS. Changes in animal numbers, seasons of use, kinds or class of animals or management practices as warranted by specific condition.

ALLOTMENT. An area of land where livestock operators graze their livestock.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment. (See Activity Plan.)

ALLUVIAL SOIL. A soil developing from recently deposited alluvium and showing essentially no development of layers or modification of the recently deposited materials.

ALLUVIUM. Soil and rock debris deposited by streams.

ANIMAL UNIT (AU). Considered to be mature (1000 lb.) cow or the equivalent, based on an average consumption of 26 lbs. of dry forage per day (800 lb./month).

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). (1) The amount of forage necessary for sustenance of one animal unit for one month; (2) The measurement of the privilege of grazing one animal unit for one month; (3) 800 pounds of vegetation apportioned to uses other than livestock.

APPORTIONMENT. Dividing or sharing according to a plan. The act of dividing or apportioning vegetation production among resources activities (Syn. allocation).

AQUIFER. A rock formation, group of rock formations or part of a rock formation that con-



tains enough water-saturated permeable material to yield water to a spring or well.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). Area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important cultural, historical, or scenic values, fish or wildlife resource, or other natural system or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

ASPECT. The orientation of a slope with respect to the compass; a position facing or fronting a particular direction; also, the visual first impression of vegetation at a particular time or as seen from a specific point.

BEDROCK. The solid unweathered rock underlying soils.

BROWSE. (Verb) to search for or consume browse. (Noun) is the part of shrubs, woody vines and trees available for animal consumption.

CANOPY COVER. The percentage of ground covered by vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage of plants. Small openings within the canopy are included. It may exceed 100 percent (Syn. crown cover).

CATEGORIZATION. The process of grouping allotments with similar characteristics (ownership, productivity, size, resource conditions) into one of three categories; Maintain, Improve, Custodial.

Maintain Category: An allotment category which includes allotments which are: generally in good condition, without significant resource problems or conflicts and which have good production potential.

Improve Category: An allotment category which includes allotments which have: resource problems or conflicts, good production potential, and enough public land to be manageable.

Custodial Category: An allotment category which includes allotments which generally have little public land, or the public land is a minor portion of the allotment, or the public land potential is low.

CHISELING. Shallow tillage of the range to speed range improvement by increasing infiltration and reducing competition to desirable species from a dense stand of less desirable vegetation.

CLAYEY. A soil containing more than 35% clay. The textural classes are sandy clay, silty clay, clay, clay loam and silty clay loam.

CLAYPAN. A dense, compact layer in the subsoil having a much higher clay content than the overlying material from which it is separated by a sharply defined boundary.

CLIMAX. The highest ecological development of a plant community capable of perpetuation under the prevailing climatic and soil conditions.

COMPACTION. The process of packing firmly and closely together; the state of being so packed, e.g., mechanical compaction of soil by livestock or vehicular activity. Soil compaction results from particles being pressed together so that the volume of the soil is reduced. It is influenced by the physical properties of the soil, moisture content and the type and amount of compactive effort.

CONTOUR FURROW. A plowed strip on the contour of the land for water retention.

CRUCIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT. Parts of the habitat necessary to sustain a wildlife population at critical periods of its life cycle. This is often a limiting factor on the population, such as breeding habitat, winter habitat, etc.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. A term that includes items of historical, archaeological or architectural significance which are fragile, limited and non-renewable portions of the human environment.

CULTURAL SITE. Any location that includes prehistoric and/or historic evidence of human use.

DEFERMENT. The withholding of livestock grazing to provide for plant reproduction, establishment, or vigor recovery.

DEFERRED GRAZING. The use of deferment in grazing management.

DEFERRED ROTATION GRAZING. Deferment of livestock grazing on various parts of a range in succeeding years; systematic rotation of grazing deferment among pastures.

DETENTION DAM. A dam constructed for the temporary storage of flood flows where the release opening is of fixed capacity and is not manually operated.

DISTRIBUTION. The uniformity of livestock grazing over a range area.

Distribution is affected by the availability of

water, topography and type and palatability of vegetation as well as other factors.

ECOLOGICAL RANGE CONDITION CLASSES. Four classes used to express the degree to which the composition of the present plant community reflects that of climax. (See Range Condition). They are:

"Condition Class"	Percentage
Excellent	76-100
Good	51-75
Fair	26-50
Poor	0-25

ELIMINATION OF GRAZING. Relinquishment or cancellation of livestock grazing on public lands currently being grazed by livestock.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES. Determined for plants and animals by one or a combination of the following factors:

1. The present or threatened destruction, modification or curtailments of a species habitat or range.
2. Over-utilization of a species for commercial, sporting, scientific or education purposes.
3. Disease or predation of the species.
4. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.
5. Other natural or human caused factors affecting a species' continued existence.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). A written analysis of the impacts on the environment of a proposed action.

EPHEMERAL STREAM. A stream that flows only after rains or during snowmelt.

EROSION. The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents.

EROSION CONDITION CLASSES. Expression of current erosion activity by use of the following ratings (soil surface factor): stable, 0-20; slight, 21-40; moderate, 41-60; critical, 61-80; severe, 81-100.

EROSION SUSCEPTIBILITY. The susceptibility of a soil to erosion when no cover is present. The rate of soil displacement depends on the physical properties of the soil, rainfall intensity and slope gradient.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA). Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy and basic management guidance.

FLOODPLAIN. The relatively flat area or lowland adjoining a drainage.

FORB. A broadleaved herb that is not grass, sedge or rush.

GRAZING SYSTEM. The manipulation of livestock grazing to accomplish a desired result.

GROUND COVER. The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. It may include live and standing dead vegetation, litter, cobble, gravel, stones and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground would total 100 percent.

GROUNDWATER. Water contained in pore spaces of consolidated and unconsolidated subsurface material.

GULLY EROSION. The erosion process whereby water accumulates in narrow channels and, over short periods, removes the soil from this narrow area to considerable depth, ranging from 0.5 meter (1.6 feet) to as much as 25 to 30 meters (83 to 100 feet).

HABITAT. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover and living space.

HUNTING HABITAT. Habitat that sustains a significant wildlife population where hunters can expect to locate game.

HYDROLOGY. The science dealing with the behavior of water as it occurs in the atmosphere, on the surface of the ground and underground.

INFILTRATION. The penetration of water into the soil surface through pores of the soil. The rate and amount of infiltration is limited by the size and abundance of pores, organic matter content and the water absorption capacity of the soil.

INTERMITTENT STREAM. A stream which flows most of the time but occasionally is dry or reduced to pool stage.

INTERSEEDING. The practice of seeding native or introduced plant species into native range in combination with various mechanical treatments. Interseeding differs from range

seeding in that only part of the native vegetation is removed to provide a seed bed for the seeded species.

LAND CAPABILITY CLASS (LCC). A Soil Conservation Service system where land is classified according to a suitable sustained use that can be made of it while providing for adequate protection from erosion or other means of deterioration.

LANDSCAPE. All natural features such as fields, hills, forests, etc., which distinguish one part of the earth's surface from another part.

LAND TREATMENT. All methods of artificial range/soil improvement and stabilization such as reseeding, brush control (chemical and mechanical), pitting, furrowing, waterspreading, prescribed fire, etc.

LEASE (GRAZING). A document authorizing use of the public lands outside grazing districts under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act for grazing livestock.

LEASE VALUE. The market value of a BLM grazing lease which is often included in the overall market value of the ranch.

LIVESTOCK OPERATION. The management of a ranch or farm so that a significant portion of the income is derived from the continuing production of livestock.

LOAMY. Soil that is intermediate in texture and properties between sandy and clayey soils. Textural classes are sandy loam, fine sandy loam, very fine sandy loam, loam, silt loam, silt, sandy clay loam, and clay loam with clay content between 18 and 35 percent.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP). A planning decision document that establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the BLM's land use plan. AN MFP is prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations; (2) impact analysis and alternative development; and (3) decision making.

MAJOR LAND RESOURCE AREA (MLRA). MLRAs are areas delineated on a map of the United States for which similar soils, plants, climate and agricultural use are represented to provide a nationwide geographic basis for organizing research needs and coordinating technical guides for management of natural resources.

MECHANICAL TREATMENTS. Treatment by mechanical means of an area of range including contour furrowing, pitting, plowing and seeding, chiseling, scalping, water spreaders, prescribed fire, etc.

MITIGATION MEASURES. Methods or procedures committed to by BLM for the purpose of reducing or lessening the impacts of an action.

MULTIPLE USE. Balanced management of the various surface and subsurface resources, without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land, that will best meet present and future needs.

NOXIOUS WEED. A weed arbitrarily defined by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome, and difficult to control. Definition of the term varies according to legal interpretations.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV). Any motorized tracked or wheeled vehicle designed for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT). Federal payments to counties based on acres of federal entitlement lands within a county, past revenues derived from those lands and the county population as provided for in Public Law 94-565.

PERCENT OPTIMUM COVER. That percent of soil stabilizing cover consisting of vegetation, rocks, logs, etc.

PREFERENCE (GRAZING). The total number of animal unit months of livestock grazing on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by the operator.

PUBLIC LANDS. Any land and interest in land (outside of Alaska) owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Part of BLM's planning system that provides the opportunity for citizens as individuals or groups to express local, regional, and national perspectives and concerns in the rule making, decision making, inventory and planning processes for public lands. This includes public meetings, hearings, or advisory boards or panels that may review resource management proposals and offer suggestions or criticisms for the various alternatives considered.

RANGE CONDITION. The present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax plant community of that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions and amounts of plants in a

plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for that site. Range condition is basically an ecological rating of the plant community. Air-dry weight is the unit of measure used in comparing the composition and production of the present plant community with that of the climax community. (See Ecological Range Condition Classes).

RANGE IMPROVEMENT. Any of a number of facilities or land (e.g., fences, water developments, reseeding, etc.) to increase range production and improve the utilization of the range by grazing animals.

RANGE SEEDING. The process of establishing vegetation by mechanical dissemination of seed.

RANGE SITE. A distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community. A range site is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development. It is capable of supporting a native plant community typified by an association of species that differs from that of other range sites in the kind and proportion of species or in total production.

RANGE TREND. The direction of change in range condition observed over time.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. Those outdoor recreation activities which offer satisfaction in a particular physical, social and management setting. In the Big Dry EIS area, these activities are primarily hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, picnicking and, in some areas, boating and camping.

RESIDUAL GROUND COVER. That portion of the total vegetative ground cover that remains after the livestock grazing season. (See Ground Cover and Canopy Cover).

REST ROTATION GRAZING. An intensive system of management where grazing is deferred on various parts of the range during succeeding years, allowing the deferred part complete rest for one year. Two or more units are usually required. Control by fencing is usually necessary on cattle range but may be obtained by herding on sheep ranges.

RIPARIAN AREA. The bank and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps and springs whose waters provide soil moisture sufficiently in excess of that otherwise available locally so as to provide a more moist habitat than that of contiguous floodplains and uplands.

RIPPING. The mechanical penetration and shearing of soils to break hardpan layers to facilitate penetration of plant roots, water, organic matter, and nutrients. Used where native grasses of a rhizomatous nature can spread into the ripped soil.

RUNOFF. The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt. As used in this EIS, runoff from an area becomes streamflow when it reaches a channel.

SANDY. A soil containing a large amount of sand. Textural classes are sands and loamy sands, with less than 18 percent clay.

SCALPING. Removing 10 to 25 inch wide strips of native vegetation and leaving undisturbed strips between. This mechanical treatment speeds range improvement by retaining rain, water and snowmelt and by reducing competition to desirable species from a dense stand of less desirable vegetation.

SCOPING (PUBLIC). The process for determining the scope of issues addressed and identification of significant issues related to a proposed action. The participation is invited of affected federal, state, and local agencies and affected Indian tribes and other interested persons to participate in this process.

SEASON OF USE. The time of livestock grazing on a range area.

SEASONAL GRAZING. Grazing use throughout a specific season.

SEDIMENT. Soil, rock particles and organic or other debris carried from one place to another by wind, water or gravity.

SEDIMENTATION. The action or process of deposition of material borne by water, wind, or glacier.

SEDIMENTARY ROCK. A rock formed from materials deposited from suspension or precipitated from solution and usually being more or less consolidated. The principal sedimentary rocks are sandstone, shales and limestones.

SEDIMENT YIELD. The total amount of sediment given up by a watershed over a specified time period, usually a year. Ordinarily it is expressed as tons, acre feet or cubic yards of sediment per unit of drainage area per year.

SHEET EROSION. The detachment of soil material from the land surface by raindrop impact and its subsequent removal by runoff.

SHRUB. A plant that has persistent, woody stems and a relatively low growth habit, and that generally produces several basal shoots instead of a single bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature—less than 5 meters (16 feet) and nonarborescent form.

SOIL. The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants.

SOIL LOSS. The detachment of material from the land surface by raindrop impact and its subsequent removal by prechannel or overland flow. Synonymous with "Sheet Erosion."

SOIL MAP. A map showing the distribution of soil series or other soil mapping units in relation to the prominent physical and cultural features of the earth's surface.

SOIL SERIES. The basic unit of soil classification, being a subdivision of a family and consisting of soils which are essentially alike in all major profile characteristics except in the texture of the "A" horizon (or surface layer).

SPRING REST/DEFERMENT. The withholding of livestock grazing in the spring to provide for plant reproduction, establishment or vigor recovery.

STREAMBANK (AND CHANNEL) EROSION. This is the removal and transport of material by concentrated flows.

SURFACE SOIL OR SURFACE LAYER. The uppermost part of the soil, ordinarily moved in tillage, or its equivalent in uncultivated soils and ranging in thickness from 4 to 8 inches.

Frequently designated as the "Plow layer," the AP layer or the AP horizon.

TAME PASTURE. Grazing lands, planted to primarily introduced or domesticated native forage species, that receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and irrigation.

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS or DS). The dry weight of dissolved material, organic and inorganic, contained in water or waste. Dissolved solids cannot be removed by filtration, and excessive dissolved solids makes water unpalatable for drinking and unsuitable for industrial use. Generally reported in mg/l.

VEGETATION (GROUND) COVER. The percent of land surface covered by all living vegetation (and remnant vegetation yet to decompose) within 20 feet of the ground. (See Canopy Cover, Ground Cover, Residual Ground Cover.)

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT. Control or change of the vegetation resource which results from purposeful actions of other activities, i.e., livestock, wildlife management.

VISUAL RESOURCE(S). The land, water, vegetation and animals that comprise the scenery of an area.

WATER QUALITY. The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

WATERSHED. All lands which are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.